

the owners of the nest were a male *Helminthophila leucobronchialis* and a female *H. chrysoptera*, as both birds were seen about the nest. About five days after I found the nest the young disappeared, just how will never be known.

A few days after the disappearance of the young birds a nest was found across the road and was believed by Mrs. Sherman and others who did not know of the first to be that of *leucobronchialis*. So far as I am aware the determination of the ownership of the nest was based entirely upon the identification of the female, which was described in 'The Auk' by Mrs. Sherman as having "a dark dusky throat-patch, not clearly defined at its base, but blended into the pale gray of the upper breast. . . . The black line through the eye was broader and extended back farther than did that on the Brewster of the preceding year. She differed also in showing two yellow wing-bands." This description applies perfectly to the female of *chrysoptera* and as there was a male of this species singing not far from the nest in question it is not at all unlikely that he was the owner and not the *leucobronchialis*, as one might be led to believe.

In 1909 and 1910 the straight male *chrysoptera* was the only bird to be seen; in the Arboretum no female was seen or nest found in either year.

Mrs. Sherman describes (*l. c.*, pp. 444, 445) a pair of Goldenwings which bred in Roslindale in 1910. The male was a typical *chrysoptera*; the female, which had been identified as *leucobronchialis*, had much the same plumage as the one she had just described (see above), but differed in having "the dusky throat patch lighter in color. It bore the same character in being darker towards its center and directly under the bill. The one in 1908 had a nearly black throat patch, mottled slightly in appearance. The black line through the eye was narrower and paled on a pale gray cheek. The white line above the eye was uniform in width. . . . The white line below the eye was shorter. The whole tone of the back was more olivaceous. Two bright yellow wing-bars divided by an olive or dark band on the wing. The entire underparts were washed with yellow which showed quite bright on the middle of the breast in a good light. The crown was bright dandelion yellow running into bronzy yellow on the back of the head."

This description seems to be a rather good one of a female *Helminthophila chrysoptera* in very high plumage.

It has always been believed that the females in the Arboretum in 1907 and 1908 were *chrysoptera*, and I see no reason why either of these birds or the one in Roslindale should ever be regarded as anything else.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Jamaica Plain, Mass.*

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*)
Nesting in Sterling, Massachusetts.—I have been collecting about Lancaster, Mass., since 1897 and I have never found but one Black-throated Blue Warbler's nest until today.

My friend Mr. Herbert Parker told me he had found what he was sure was a Black-throated Blue's nest, in Sterling, which is the next town to

Lancaster, about due west. I went with him the next day (May 28, 1911) and found the nest with the female on it. She glided off and I shot her, to be absolutely sure about the identity. The nest was placed in a laurel bush (*Kalmia latifolia*) about eleven inches from the ground and contained four fresh eggs. It was a typical nest of this species, lined with the dark fibres that are usually used.

Later in the day we found another nest, in a laurel bush, about two feet from the ground. It contained four eggs slightly incubated. As the female was very tame and gave us every opportunity to identify her, I did n't shoot her, as it seemed unnecessary; especially as I had collected the parent bird with the first set.

I located another pair in this same wood, but failed to find their nest.—
JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

Notes on a Massachusetts Mockingbird.— The notes on the Mockingbird, published in a recent issue of 'The Auk,' recall to mind some pleasant and interesting observations I made on this species in eastern Massachusetts a few years since. In looking over my notebooks I find under date of June 5, 1908: "An unusual bird visitor seen today. While working in the field my attention was attracted by the (supposed) note of the Crested Flycatcher. I was somewhat surprised to hear it, as this flycatcher is found here only in a few restricted localities. This being outside of the localities where usually found, I hastened to investigate and found that these notes, and a varied collection of others also, came from a Mockingbird. By good fortune he proved to be very approachable, affording a fine chance to see and watch him.

"He was for the most part singing all the time; a pause of a few minutes now and then, during which time he fed more persistently than when singing, although his time when in song, was not entirely devoted to that, but he was frequently changing his perch in order to catch some insect, but making no noticeable pause in song. Much the same style and manner as the Red-eyed Vireo in this respect. I do not know what the powers of mimicry may be for the average mocker but I should think that this one was more than ordinarily skilled in that difficult art.

"A multitude of call-notes and songs of the commoner birds, and some that I hear but infrequently, he ran over apparently as easily as the pianist plays the scale, and with perfect imitation. In many cases not even an acute and practised ear could detect a variation from the genuine. He seemed to be especially well skilled in the performance of the song or calls of the Crested Flycatcher, giving that peculiar inflection one notes in the whistle of this particularly interesting species. Again, without any apparent pause, he would be "whipping-poor-will" with spiteful accent or trilling the amicable "cheer-up" of the robin. The squall of the Blue Jay and also the Jay's more musical bell like note, were rendered with correct expression. The mew of the Catbird and the clicker of the Kingbird, the laughing call of the Flicker, and the Downy Woodpeckers metallic